



# ZERO BEAT



AMSAT



## Hampden County Radio Association

Springfield, MA    September 1985    ARRL Affiliated, 37th Year

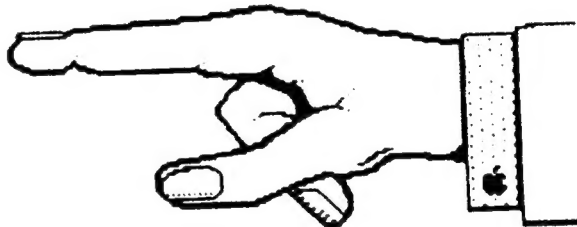
### HEADLINES:

- N1BHF OPERATION AT BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME HUGE SUCCESS!
- VEC SESSIONS AMAZE ALL WITH HIGH PASS RATES!
- PRESTIGIOUS SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB STATUS AWARDED TO THE HCRA!
- TELECONFERENCING RADIO NET CARRIED LIVE ON THE K1KPH REPEATER!
- WINY CARRIES SPACE SHUTTLE AUDIO LIVE!
- K1KRX CONTACTS WOORE ABOARD SHUTTLE!
- WESTLINK REPORT NOW CARRIED ON K1KPH REPEATER WEEK NIGHTS!

### Next Meeting

**FRIDAY    SEPTEMBER 6th, 1985**

Feeding Hills Cong. Church  
Center of Feeding Hills  
Routes 57 and 187  
Doors open at 7:30 PM  
Meeting starts promptly at 8:00 PM



## SEND IN YOUR DUES THIS MONTH!

**SPACE SHUTTLE CHALLENGER    STS-51L**

**VIDEO INCLUDING THE WINY OPERATION!**

**BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME VIDEO!  
N1BHF**

Please, no smoking during  
the meeting! Thank you!



NO SMOKING

1985 - 1986

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Dues are \$9.00 per season, September thru June. Please mail to: N1AEH,  
Greg Stoddard, 1500 Mapleton Avenue, Suffield, CT 06078. Thank you!

## The HCRA covers STS-51F with NASA Select on WINY

As most of you know by now, the Hampden County Radio Association was fortunate to obtain permission from the FCC and NASA to provide local coverage of the last "Ham in Space" mission on Challenger flight STS-51F. WINY broadcast the NASA Select audio, obtained from a transponder on a satellite, locally on 2 meters on 146.595 mhz. This special event station was set-up at the QTH of WA10CK, in Springfield, and was running about 40 watts. Coverage was estimated at a radius of 25 miles from Springfield. Special thanks to Joe, who's idea became a reality, and for his effort in keeping the station on the air. The coverage was continuous from about 7AM 'till the wee hours of the morning.

On board STS-51F were two hams; Tony England and John David Bartoe. Challenger space mobile used Tony's call, WOORE. The objectives Tony had were; to involve more participation of groups than the last mission (STS-9), to provide Amateur TV capability, to allow for unattended on-orbit Amateur Radio operations, to provide more opportunities for participation, and to promote slow scan TV technology.

Through NASA and the ARRL, Tony coordinated his operation with youth groups throughout the country. His main purpose was to give kids first hand experience with Amateur Radio and the US space program. You can imagine the thrill as kids all over the country and the world got a chance to communicate with a member of the crew of STS-51F using Amateur Radio.

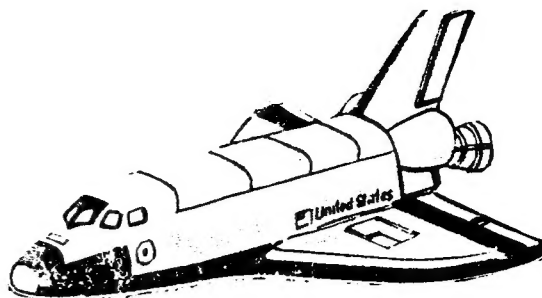
In addition to the frequencies published for general use, Tony also utilized secret frequencies intended for bonafide youth groups. These groups were coordinated through organizations such as the Young Astronaut program and the Boy Scouts. In this way, hams participating in the youth group program would have a better chance in working Tony and would not have to compete with the thousands calling on the general up-link frequencies.

Early in the mission, an 11 year old kid at a youth group sponsored station in California called and responded to WOORE's call. You may have heard part of the contact in a recent Westlink broadcast. If you were listening to WINY's NASA Select broadcast you may have heard Tony make an occasional sked with a youth group station during those periods when he had free time. On one occasion he called down to NASA in Houston and instructed them to notify a youth group in the British Islands that he would be on. Minutes later the contact was made.

The number of youth groups did not demand all Tony's time. Many contacts were made by Tony on the general purpose frequencies. Westlink reported that one individual, using 40 watts, actually worked WOORE while mobile!

Tony's station, called SAREX (short for Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment), was sponsored by the ARRL, AMSAT, JSC Amateur Radio Club, and NASA. The equipment was donated to the ARRL and AMSAT by industry for loan to NASA. The power supplies came from Abbott Transistor Labs, Inc. The handle talkie was from Motorola. The scan converter was from Robot. Panasonic provided the TV camera and the color video monitor. The NASA JSC designed and provided the microphone and headset and interconnecting cables. Finally the video buffer was provided by NASA Lewis Amateur Radio group. The integration costs were picked up by NASA!

In addition to the 2 meter voice communications, which operated the same as in STS-9, there was slow scan television. Both ways! Video sent down on 2 meters came from the live Panasonic camera, from NASA shuttle video, and from images stored in RAM and ROM in the video image buffer. In addition, Tony was equipped to receive images transmitted up to the space craft. And as with the STS-9 mission, the whole thing is on tape.



The WINY broadcasts were well received, and not only by hams! WWLP channel 22 had been receiving them on their scanner. It got enough attention that they set up a live remote at the QTH of Bob, KA1KPH. WFSB TV3 in Hartford was over at the ARRL in Newington where the League was also monitoring the WINY broadcasts. They also did a very nice news story about the Amateur Radio operation and STS-51F. Special thanks to Art, KA1GGG, who shot the video for channel 3. If you caught it, you will notice some of the antennas at the WIKK/WINY station.

Scheduled in October is another mission where Amateur Radio operators will be on board a NASA space craft. This time we will see two German and one Dutch ham, and equipment from Robert Bosch. More on their operation will follow, both here in Zero Beat, and on the Westlink report. We held a meeting regarding the operation of WINY during this mission and are now actively planning to do it again for STS-61A in October. Please realize that this last effort was really an experiment. If you liked what you heard and feel that this should be continued, please let us know. If everything comes together we will be providing super 2m coverage and local updates of orbit times and operating schedules. We need your comments now so that we can make improvements for October!

### HCRA'S GOALS FOR THE 1986 SEASON

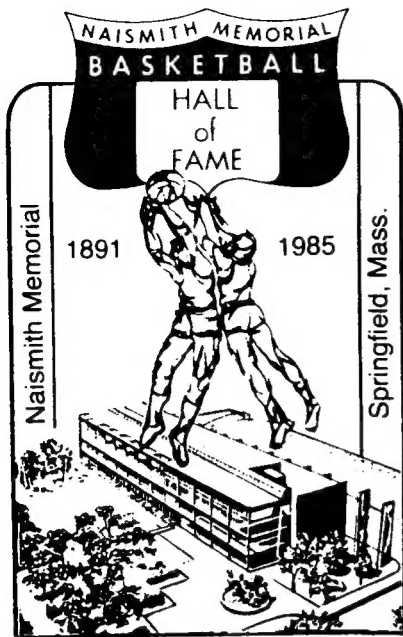
1. Support/promote/defend amateur radio.
2. Promote the technical aspects of our hobby.
3. Increase the club membership to 300 active hams.
4. Sponsor licensing classes in the Fall.
5. Sponsor four license testing sessions.
6. Continue to build/support/upgrade the repeaters.
7. Recognize public service efforts by hams in Western Mass section.
8. Sign up fifty (50) new ARRL members.

1985 - 1986

### HCRA Meeting Schedule

Friday	06-Sep-85	STS-51F Ham in Space
Friday	04-Oct-85	Power Distribution
Friday	01-Nov-85	Annual Auction
Friday	06-Dec-85	DX
Friday	03-Jan-86	VHF & Repeaters
Friday	07-Feb-86	Computers in TV
Friday	07-Mar-86	HF propagation
Friday	04-Apr-86	Special speaker
Sunday	04-May-86	Annual Flea Market
Friday	06-Jun-86	Annual June Banquet

**SEND IN YOUR DUES  
THIS MONTH!**



#### SPECIAL EVENT STATION: NIBHF

Basketball-the all American sport! A beautiful new Hall of Fame and amateur radio was there to help open it! The Hampden County Radio Association of Springfield, Mass sponsored special event station, NIBHF, "Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame" at the opening celebrations June 29/30. The callsign belongs to Glen Sykes of nearby Vernon, CT.

Months of planning went into the effort, which was frustrating because the opening date was not set until the last minute. Finally the word was passed down and all systems were go! Clubs in the area pitched in to help. The Mount Tom ARA provided radios, the Provin Mountain ARA the antennas, Northern Berkshire ARC set up the traffic handlers, and the Hampden County Radio Association everything else. Pete Campana, KAILHD, said, "We were up on the roof early Saturday on the 29th, putting up dipoles in pouring rain. They wouldn't load well, so out again into the weather to move them.". Joe Dumais, WBIEMB, stated, "The band conditions were very poor. The biggest laugh was working stations that gave us Field Day reports!" "We operated 75, 40, 20, 2, and 70cm meters," said Larry Kraison, WBIDBY, "Except for the RTTY setup, we used voice modes only. Traffic was being solicited from the public and we quickly exhausted our supply of message forms.". Larry Savoy, KXIF, stated that "Most were greetings from the new Basketball Hall of Fame via amateur radio."

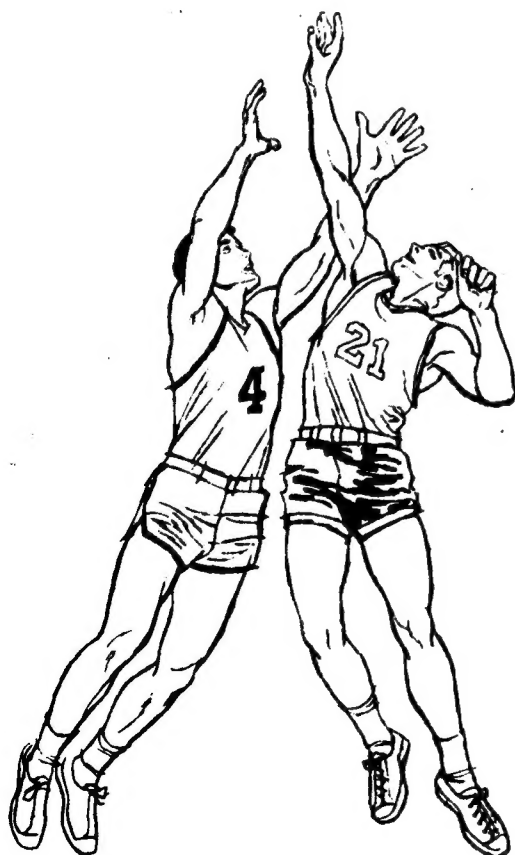
Basketball, the only major sport invented in America, was created by Dr. James Naismith at Springfield College in 1891. It is now played in over 160 nations throughout the world and has been an official Olympic sport since 1936. The new Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame is beautiful, with many exhibits, displays, action videos, an all-new movie theatre that puts you into a game, a chance to shoot basketballs, and other attractions. Who knows, you might meet a famous player during your visit! The memorial is located alongside Route 91 in Springfield, Mass. The first thing you'll see is the larger-than-life mural on the side of the building depicted action basketball. Admission is \$5.00 and it's open daily 10 am to 5 pm, except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. The American Radio Relay League is only 30 minutes south on major roads, so make sure you see both. There isn't anyone seven feet tall at the League to look at, though!

Ray Burk, WB1GLX, said, "The radio club wanted a unique way to commemorate this beautiful new memorial. What better way than letting the thousands of ham radio operators who also love basketball to participate via radio?" Special QSL cards have been printed up and will go out to every contact made. Some stations were not able to work us and we are sorry. It seemed everybody was just waiting for us to appear! The first contact was with the club president, KAIKPH, on the 449.175 club repeater. Once all the wires were connected Sean McCormick, KAIMCA, and Henry Stallworth, KAIAMV, began operating. "I was amazed at the number of stations who returned our first call," said Stallworth, "I couldn't write fast enough!"

Famous basketball stars visited the Hall of Fame on Saturday, June 29th and stopped at the radio station. "We were thrilled to meet them," said Jeffrey Duquette, K1BE, one of the organizers. "How else could I have met Dr. J, except for my involvement in radio? I wanted to get a picture of Magic Johnson or Dr J. sitting at the ham station, but no photographers were there when they were." Coaches, players, managers, and fans packed the Basketball Hall of Fame. It made an impression to see a Hall of Famer looking at their display in the flesh!

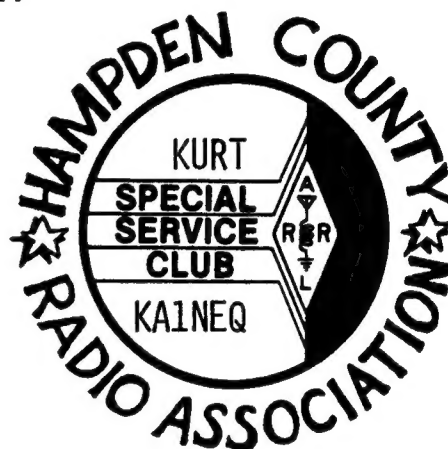
The City of Springfield capped off a week of festivities with a parade to the memorial. Kurt Gowdy MC'd the opening ceremonies. Then the dam burst! Over 6,000 people visited the Hall of Fame in three hours! The radio display was a big hit, and all our informational literature went in 10 minutes. 122 messages were originated and N1BHF made BPL. Our station was set up in the Court of Honor, where the famous people are enshrined.

It was a fun and very worthwhile demonstration of amateur radio! Many thanks to all who helped out, in big or small ways. The QSL cards should be going out soon, so if you worked us, keep your eyes on the mailbox! Here are the amateur call signs of those who helped out: KA1MZQ, KA1AVM, (now KB1UA) KA1DNX, N1CAS, KA1LHD, KA1MCA, WB1GLX, K1BE, WA1PGT, WB1EMB, KA1KRJ, KA1MEW, KA1AHR, K1IWH, WB1DBY, and KX1F. A video tape was made of the operation, so we hope to show you some of the glitter and excitement at an upcoming club meeting.



## HCRA NOW A SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB!

The American Radio Relay League has honored the HCRA by allowing us to be a Special Service Club! This is a special privilege and is in recognition of our efforts to advance amateur radio. To put this in perspective, you should know that there are only about 100 SSC clubs in the entire country! The club will receive special things from the ARRL, but more importantly, this recognition will spur all of us on to new heights. Join with everyone in the club, and take a minute to pat yourself on the back. That's done? Good, now back to work!!!!



The SSC logo, which appears on the newsletter's masthead, can now be printed on all club member's QSL cards, and you as a member can purchase cloth patches to wear. A different way to celebrate this has been also been made available. AT NO CHARGE, you can order a nice button, as shown here, with your name and call sign on it from the club. It would be easier for the ones doing the work if you'd order it at the same time that you re-new your dues. While there is no charge, if you care to make a donation, it is much appreciated! A button ordered at the September meeting can be picked up at the October meeting. If you want it mailed to you, enclose an SASE with .32 cents postage.

This is a limited-time offer! Once all the buttons are gone, they may not be re-ordered. (Depends on how much money it costs us to do this!) So, get this keepsake today!



## KAIKPH/R 449.175

The KAIKPH 70cm machine has been up and running since its final installation tuning without any problems at all. You may be interested to note that the repeater can be worked near mile marker 5 on Interstate 91 in Vermont! This is some coverage considering where the antenna is located (on the roof) and the frequency.

Some minor features have been added over the summer. These are the output power and SWR readouts, the outside temperature and S meter. At this time the calibration of the outside temp is off - we have not installed the correct sensing diode. Also, due to time constraints, the S meter has not been set up, either. But they may be working by the time you read this!

You may, from time to time, hear two tones broadcast by the repeater. One will be shorter than the other. These are paging tones and seem to work just fine! More on this feature in another issue of Zero Beat.

The fall plans are to double the output power. The transmitter currently in use should be able to output 75 watts continuous duty. Replacement of the driver module will accomplish this power increase. This should make us solid into most areas of greater Springfield. We are also looking at a few different alternatives for increasing reception into some of the rougher areas, so hang in there!

An additional computer interface board should be on the way shortly, too. This board will provide four serial I/O ports and a 300/1200 baud modem (a modem on a repeater controller?), another touch tone decoder, two 4X4 audio cross-point switches, additional general purpose logic I/O, and EPROM expansion to 96K bytes. What does this all mean? Well, more control of audio and additional receivers/transmitters. What you will first see is the TRN and Westlink appearing in more places. Then additional/better coverage on 70cm. And from there.....

## KAIKPH-1 145.01

The KAIKPH-1 packet radio digipeater was hit by lightning down at the WIKK / WINY QTH. The power amp was blown to bits; the exciter was also damaged but has been fixed. ACIT has designed a super power supply to power the TNC, rig, and amp. As this report is being written this effort is almost complete. A new ham to the area, John, KD9MU, has also lent a hand in the effort of getting the digipeater back on the air.

So, by the time you read this the KAIKPH-1 digipeater should be back on the air. We expect that it will be running for a period of time in Feeding Hills for burn-in. Once we are sure it will run (forever?) then we'll be moving it up to its final resting place atop Wilbraham Mountain, courtesy of Ray, KAIJUM.

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## Volunteer Examinations

The 09-Jul-85 HCRA sponsored ARRL/VEC test session went well with 24 candidates served by the session. A total of 17 individuals upgraded that night. Those with newly earned tickets and credits:

KAIMUH	Joseph Gianetti	Extra
KAI6TI	Ned Carpenter	Extra
WB1DMF	Richard Gagne	Extra
W1FAB	Kenneth Walker	Extra
N1ABJ	Robert Roy Sr.	Extra
WA1GVV	Vincent Falardeau	Advanced
WA1YYK	Jack LoMonaco	Advanced
KAI1AVM	Henry Stallworth	Advanced
KAI1LXW	Leonard Shaffer	General
N1DLL	John Makar	General
KA3NGL	James Rodgers	Technician
KAI1HXH	Bernard O'Donnell	Technician
KAI1MXI	Dennis Hoddinott	Technician
KAI1NEQ	Kurt Hanson	Technician
KAI1NBT	Frank Mazza	Technician
KAI1NFF	Richard Lowe	Technician
KAI1MZT	Linda Martelli	Technician
WA1HFF	Steve Berg	20 WPM
KAI1MZU	Neil Martelli	5 WPM

This was our first evening examination session as well as our first walk-in exam. This was also my first time as one of the three members of the VE team. I found out first hand how much work these VE exams really require! Thanks to all candidates for hanging in there as we got the paper work checked and rechecked. All the paperwork was in the mail at 10 the next morning to the League for processing; hopefully you all have or will soon receive your new tickets!

I have put together some additional information regarding the exams that you may find of interest. When you look at the table below remember that if you do come in for an exam, and want/need to take the 13 WPM test, we will offer (suggest?) that you try the 20 WPM test. Likewise, if you have passed the 20 WPM test and are going for the Advanced (and pass), we'll offer you an Extra class exam. Since we promote the attempts at additional exam elements, it deflates the passing rate of some elements, specifically the 20 WPM element 1C and Extra element 4B.

	13	20	T/G	Adv	Extra	All
Element	1B	1C	3	4A	4B	Exams
Pass Rate	33%	27%	89%	75%	71%	57%



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

## JANUARY VHF SWEEPSTAKES REPORT

Well, gang, we took third in the country! and scored 192,556 points! Not bad for a little club in a little section! Well done, and you all should be proud.

In 1986, if we can get on more than one band, the HCRA has a much better chance of winning. Many now own the 450 mhz radios, and by using those and two meters, we can double our scores. The way this is scored now makes it imperative that as many as possible get on more than one band! Watch out for these people in 1986:

KIUVX	KAIAPR	ACIT	KIBE	WBIAPD
WBIGLZ	WICJK	NIPF	KIMAL	KACRX
WBIDLH	WIQWJ	WINY	WIKK	WIJWV
KBIY	KAIQNX	WIUWX	WIRED	KIBUB
WIALI	KIFO	WAIWU	KAIKBN	WAIYF
WIDGJ	WAIVHU	NICRO	KAIKRJ	KALMEW
KIJDL	KAIJDY	NISR	WBIHS	WBIHAB
KAIKAX	KBIMU	KAICTM	WAILES	KIGXU
WBIGLX	KAIQCL	KAIKPH	KAIMCA	NIAEH
WALUQC				



If you have not received your badge for participating in this contest, it will be at the September meeting. Or you can mail an SASE to Zero Beat with .32 cents postage.

**WESTLINK**  
**TRN ON 449.175!**

UNLESS YOU'VE ALREADY SENT YOUR  
DUES IN, YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES  
WITH THIS ISSUE! SEND YOUR \$9.00  
IN TODAY!!!!

## JUNE BANQUET REPORT

The annual meeting and awards banquet was held on Friday June 7th at the Feeding Hills Church. Much to the amazement of all, it was a capacity crowd! The food and camaraderie was just great! Ron Beauchemin, WBIETS, organized a terrific buffet.

Outgoing president ACIT set up a busy agenda. John received a plaque in thanks for all his hard work. WIKK received a new Kenwood radio for 450mhz for all his help at WINY. Special name badges were given out to all who sent in logs for the January VHF Sweepstakes. The highlights of the 1985 season were listed, with thanks to all who helped. Too long to list here, suffice to say it was a very productive year!

Tom Frenaye, KIKI, New England ARRL Division Director, then rambled on about myriad topics, finally presenting the coveted Special Service Club award. New club officers were elected and the goals for next season were discussed. (Details elsewhere in this issue.) A good time was had by all.....

FOR SALE: ICOM 2AT 2 mtr transceiver with BP-2 and BC-25u charger. CUSHCRAFT ARX-2 ringo ranger 2 meter antenna. HEATH HW-32A 200 watt SSB transceiver with HP-13A power supply, mic, crystal calibrator, mobile mounting, speaker, manual, etc. JOHNSON Viking Invader 200 watt transmitter, 80-10 SSB, CW AM. HALLICRAFTERS SX-100 receiver, broadcast through 34 mhz with ham band spread. HEATH OM-2 oscilloscope, manual. HEATH AM-1 antenna impedance meter, manual. HEATH AM-2 swr bridge, manual. Call Mike 413-583-6678 (Ludlow)

FOR SALE: HEATH SB110 6 meter transceiver, with HP 23A power supply, D104 mic, ARR P50VD preamp, manuals, cables. \$220.00 Six meter beam, Hygain model 66B, 6 elements, \$40.00 HALLICRAFTERS HA-2 two mtr transverter, converts 2 meters to 10 mtrs. Includes power supply, ARR 144D, manual, spare finals, cables. \$125.00 220 mhz beam, Cushcraft 220b, 17 elements, \$40.00 432 mhz beam, Cushcraft model 424B, 24 elements, \$40.00 John ACIT 413 786-2438, Evenings before 9 pm.

FOR SALE: Kenwood TS 520SE HF transceiver, analog dial, cw filter, manual, extra finals, \$375.00 Ned Carpenter, KAIGTI 413-596-4625

FOR SALE: ICOM 2AT w/ power supply \$200.00 WAILES Joe

FOR SALE: KENWOOD TR-2400 2 meter handitalkie, with rubber duck, and telescoping antenna, \$150.00 WAIPTG Jerry at 413-567-0367

FOR SALE: ICOM 2AT Manual, power supply, AC, battery, rubber duck, \$175.00 Icom 4AT as above, with comspec PL and 5db mag mount, \$190.00 Duplexer 440, Phelps Dodge, 4 can, mobile, 75db (? can't read word..ed), notch type, 1 1/2 yrs old, tuned to 448.175mhz \$100.00 No manual 6 meter mobile exec line with xtals and antenna, 40w out, \$50.00 413-736-5348 after 5:30 pm Wynn Beattie KAIJKP

## AMATEUR RADIO CLASSES

Radio classes being sponsored by the Hampden County Radio Association at the Agawam High School will be held again this Fall. Starting Tuesday September 17th, you'll be able to start out at the beginner's level, and earn the Novice amateur radio license, or take a class to pass the next higher levels, Technician, General, Advanced, or Extra. The times will be from 7 to 9:30 pm. The club wants to know how many people in the area are interested. Morse code is being taught so that anyone, at any age, can learn it! You'll be surprised how quickly you'll pick it up.

We need to sign up the instructors! Resources are very limited and as they become available, they'll be assigned in the following order of priorities: Novice, Technician/General, Advanced, and Extra. What this means is that if we can only staff one course, it will be the novice group! We need your help, even if you can only do one night out of ten! There is no charge for the course, but you must purchase the textbooks, which cost under \$10.00. The classes will last for ten weeks, meeting once per week on Tuesday nights, from 7-9:30 pm, starting Sept. 17th and ending December 10th. Exams for all license classes will be held Saturday Dec. 14th! To find out more or to sign up for the course, contact Art Zavarella, at 786-9115.

Or you can drop a card to the club at: Hampden County Radio Association, P.O. Box 482, West Springfield, MA 01090. (Include your phone number, please.) Remember, without the help of the club membership, this will not encompass all licenses!



**FLASH!!** limited number of NLBHF QSL cards will be available at the

September 6th meeting. For a donation to defray expenses, you can have one!

## Club Challenge for the '80s

The American Radio Relay League is now sponsoring an aggressive program to recruit new ARRL members. Ron Beauchemin, WBIETS is organizing the HCRA's effort. What's the prize? A brand new Transceiver, which we could then raffle off to earn money! And for every new League member signed up through the club, we receive \$5.00 from the ARRL! It's another win-win situation.

What are the goals of our effort? Ron stated, "I want to do three things: Sign up new ARRL members, get the existing League members to renew through the HCRA, so that the club gets the \$3.00 every year, and lastly, sign up new members into the HCRA." Right now Ron's doing mailings to non-ARRL members in the area, with the help of a very few people.

Our club ID number is 0038, and if you're a new member signing up, make sure you mark that ID on your application! Everyone can help by talking about the advantages of League membership with friends. Don't be shy about telling them they are not carrying their part of the load!!! If you have any more ideas on how we might go about this better, contact Ron Beauchemin. Many thanks!

## RG-8A Coaxial Cable Sale

A limited amount of this high-quality foam-core RG-8A coax is now on sale. Some local stores have been selling poor-grade cable for 37¢ per foot! Our coax is brand new, with 96% shielding. Here's your chance to save some money and get better performance.

Price: 500 foot roll, 18¢ per foot

100 foot lengths, 22¢ per foot

We'll bring your cable to the next HCRA meeting. You can order over the phone, but there is only a limited amount, and prepaid orders will be taken care of first. odd lengths, 27¢ per foot

Mail to: Jeffrey J. Duquette, K1BE  
P.O. Box 346  
Southwick, MA 01077  
Phone: Day 413-730-3253

Make checks payable  
to  
"Jeffrey J. Duquette"

Evenings (Before 9 pm!) 413-569-6739

Loss in db per 100 feet

TYPE	IMPEDENCE	3.5 Mhz	7 Mhz	14 Mhz	21	28	50	144 Mhz
RG 8/U	52 ohms	0.3	0.45	0.66	0.83	0.98	1.35	2.5
RG 8 A/U	"	0.25	0.36	0.53	0.67	0.80	1.1	2.0

Velocity factor of the RG 8 A/U is .81

# ISync TImE

A SAFARI TO GREYLOCK  
John Shelley WAI1AO

On June 7, I asked the Mount Greylock contest group if they would be interested in making some A.T.V. contacts. When they responded with "That sounds great", I was both amazed and thrown into a panic. I had a new transceiver and wasn't sure that it was reliable. Furthermore, other hams had been criticizing my camera signals. Also, there is a big difference between having it all together in your shack and transporting that horrible mess, in some sort of working order, up a mountain top.

A conference, that night, with Ed, W1RJA, gave me great relief. He made the offer of lending me a reliable camera, lots of encouragement and an invitation to come down to his place, in Coventry, to give my gear the once-over. I accepted eagerly, and a good part of Saturday was spent at his QTH. When I left, I had a lot more confidence—at least in equipment.

On the trip, late Sunday morning, I was having grave misgivings. Experienced UHF'ers have been known to turn up their noses A.T.V., thinking of it as strictly a short distance mode. I was supposed to use their 432 Yagi array and worried that it wouldn't pass 439 MHz, wide-band signals. The worst problem, I thought, would be the distance to be covered.

All of the above fears were totally unfounded. I was greeted, very cordially, by Dick, WA2AAU and Joe, WA2SPL, who were in charge of the UHF operation and many others expressed interest in the gear. The real problems were almost unbelievable. The intermod from channel 19 and F.M. broadcast transmitters, 300 feet away, made audio and straight pictures impossible. Dick, WB1HH, who was being hassled by the Appalachian Mountain Club, had to ask me to move my car, twice, while I was setting up. They think that there is no niche in the ecological system for Hams.

We made one, two-way, contact with Ed, in eastern Connecticut and a one-way with Chet, W1HGX, in East Longmeadow. At the time we were trying to line things up for the return path, a tornado warning was announced for the area. Needless to say, I split. I felt great on the way home and would like to try it again. What a great site for an A.T.V. repeater!

FUTURE QSO  
By K1BE

"Yeah, Joe, since I joined the club, ham radio's got more zing than ever!", said the gray haired amateur as he passed it back.

"What's the club got to do with your new found happiness in hamdom, Fred?, back to you..."

"Well, when I moved into this here condo, the lease said no antennas of any kind, so all I've got is this here talkie. But by joining in with ten others in the same boat, I've got all band capabilities and top of the line radios, and a 70 foot tower. DXCC at last! It's fun and so how's the signal?"..."Not so fast there, Fred, you've got me intrigued, I'm stuck here with a dipole and a handheld because the township won't allow nothin' resemblin a tower. So tell me more"...."You should try this, I use a microcomputer with 276k, cost me \$100.00 but I thought what the hey, buy an expensive one. I use the little bugger to tie into the radio link on the phone line. The rig in the old auto lets me tie in while mobile. Just the other day snagged that rare African while waiting for Mabel to finish shopping, now that was a treat, oh, yeah, so we've got the Yaesu FT12D for HF, the usual autotuners, etc and I just type in where I want to operate and the computer puts me there. Me and five other guys paid for the original set up and now there's more members. Of course only four can be on at once, but we're gonna put in more line."....."CQ,CQ,CQ this is.."

"Hey friend this frequency is in use! Boy these new bozos never listen first, with 8,000 satellite channels available why do they always pick out ours? Sheesh, so Sam, the television picture from England today is Q5, but the yellow is a little out of sync, try...."





## President's Corner

I was delighted to see the large turnout at the last annual banquet. I thank you all for attending and hope you will be coming back for many years to come. Amateur Radio has so many different areas of interest it is often difficult to cover them all and satisfy all the hams in the fraternity. This year, we have assembled a fine board of directors who's interests cover many of the varied aspects of the hobby. I invite you to communicate with myself or any other director as the year goes on. Remember, we need your input and feedback; for without you and your support there would be no HCRA!

This year the HCRA will again place a high priority on licensing classes and ARRL/VEC exams. Thanks to Art, WIKK, the dean of our continuing education classes, and Yorke, K1BXE, our VE coordinator, we have been able to assist many of you in obtaining upgrades as well as bringing new hams into the ranks. Also, special thanks to each and every instructor and accredited examiner for devoting their time to assist others.

We have also ventured into new and fresh areas bringing high-tech ham radio within everyone's reach. The Westlink Report and local news and information five nights a week at 8 PM. The North American Teleconference Radio Net linking over 200 repeaters across the country for technical presentations and discussions. Continuous live coverage of shuttle mission audio through special permission with NASA. Amateur television repeater, packet radio, 70cm and the list goes on. We also hope to sponsor more events such as the N1BHF special events station at the opening of the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield.

And of course we must not forget those activities that have been with us for over thirty years. We hope to see a further increase in activity in the VHF contests, especially in the January club effort. Although HF propagation is poor it won't last forever! Now is the time to get going on increasing your CW speed or investigating alternative HF modes such as RTTY and SSTV. We also hope to see you at the club sponsored auction, flea market and field day activities.

**Amateur Radio is what YOU make it. Its only as good or as bad as you want it to be. What will be your donation to the hobby?**

As we continue through the 80's I believe you will see some major changes in the Amateur Radio Service. Further FCC deregulation and the League's desire to significantly (and quickly, I might add) increase the number of licensed hams will affect all of us. This will require that the existing base keep close tabs on the direction we take and perform an active part in steering it down the right path. Need I remind you of our old 11 meter allocation?

The HCRA has a goal similar and aligned with the ARRL's. We are certainly interested in increasing our membership, mainly through an increase in the locally licensed ham population. We strongly desire to bring good people into the hobby, and hope to ensure a high quality standard in all hams, through the offering of various HCRA sponsored classes. I'm sure you will concur, ham radio certainly needs quality before quantity.

Now that we've got the HCRATEAM on the move we've got to keep it rolling. Its not an easy job to try to maintain a high standard of quality. We need good people, lots of them, with many different talents. Although you may consider the HCRA to be a club, its really a business and its success is totally dependant on the people who run it. Getting more people (new hams?!) involved will ensure a perpetuating system whereby the high quality aggressive posture of the HCRA will continue. Without planning for the future the small group of workers will surely fall victim to burnout.

**RENEW YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP  
TODAY!**

**You can help!** When was the last time you administered a Novice exam? If you can't remember maybe its time you found a candidate and got someone interested. If you can't do it yourself, please refer someone to our license classes.

Here's a statistic to think about: one quarter of licensed hams are Novices! The largest number of dropouts comes from this class. I'm sure one reason is that nasty four letter word *LAZY*. I'm certain the other reason is many Novices get little or no post exam encouragement or support. Together, with your support, we'll get and keep new hams in Western Mass.

If you are currently a Novice or Technician maybe you would like to consider an upgrade. The element 3 written exam for the Tech/General is not all that hard. Although you may perceive the 13 WPM code test impossible to master, remember, practice, practice, practice. My son went for the 13 WPM test certain he would fail. He came out of the exam session with a 20 WPM code credit, good for a year. Now he has his Advanced and is working on the Extra written.

And a special note for those of you who are members and possess the Amateur Extra class license. The ARRL/VEC will approve you as a volunteer examiner; an open book qualification exam that you complete at home is all that's necessary. Once you receive your accreditation from the League drop Yorke, K1BXE, a line and let him know of your new status. We need more VE's to ensure high quality support and more frequent sessions.

And to close, no thought or idea is too far out to consider. In our hobby the mind is the only limitation. Let's hear your ideas!

73's de Bob KA1KPH

## WINY Field Day 1985

The Hampden County Radio Association club station WINY again participated in Field Day, this year at the Western Massachusetts Law Enforcement Academy in Feeding Hills. We were pleased to see a number of hams turn out for the occasion and assist in the set-up and operation of the station.

Our set-up included three dipole antennas, which were *way* up in the trees and gave very good results. These antennas were fed with twinline. The Town of Agawam let us use their CD truck and Skw generator which we used for two stations. The third station was set-up outside. KAINBS provided us with the novice license. Others we remember operating were: AC1T, WIKK, KA1KPH, KA1MCA, KA1NEQ, KA1KRJ, KA1KBN, WA1HFF, N1FJ. Thanks to these guys and all the others who came out and lent a hand.

Now for the interesting stuff - how we scored. Of course, it will be some months before we see the final results in QST, but here's our details:

Band	QSO's CW	QSO's Phone
80m	34	14
40m	131	103
20m	160	40
15m	143	---
10m	21	42
packet	2	n/a

This totals to 1,320 QSO points, and since we were using less than 200w, we get to multiply this by two thus our score before bonus was 2,640. We also should receive 430 bonus points; emergency power, publicity, SCM message, packet, and 3 messages.

Hope to see you next year!

From February Zero Beat '79

## RECOLLECTIONS OF THE 1931 EVENT

By Percy Noble WIBVR



CQ DX

by

WIDGJ

The following is as I remember my activity with the U.S. Air Force at Bowles Airport in 1931. I believe it was our total air force at the time and they had no radio equipment.

How I got invited to be part of it I don't remember, but I did ask my superintendent of schools, (I was then teaching principal at the school in Blandford.) if I could be released for two days to take part in air force activities. Being a reserve officer in the army, he agreed, and no docking of my pay! He was the reserve officer, not me.

The city of Springfield had set up a small building for our radio shack. WIASY, (now WIRB) loaned his transmitter. I don't remember who loaned his receiver. The ARRL station, (WIMK I think.) would keep in touch with us for relay if necessary.

Harry Fisk, WIDR of Westfield and I made up one team. We copied coded material (5 letter groups) for an hour at a time, alternating turns. At the end of each run we took our coded material to the sergeant in the main building. I believe the station we copied was NAA. Unfortunately, I can't recall who made up other teams. (Too busy that day myself!) My wife tells me I've always been self-centered, and I guess she's right.

One afternoon an officer came into our shack, saying he knew we had a receiver, but did we have a transmitter? He asked us to relay a message for him to Long Island. We agreed to try and relayed his message. He told us an airplane had just come in and smashed its' propeller. He gave us the number of it and requested that a replacement be sent up.

We sent the message to WIMK to relay. Some time after that, and I don't think it was too long, the officer again came in and told us the new propeller had arrived. HAM RADIO SCORES AGAIN!

At the conclusion of the exercises, some of the crew got an airplane ride to New York, I declined because I didn't trust airplanes then, and I still don't! You and I both know it's impossible to take a heavy plane, load it with a great many people, and get it off the ground. (Or am I just keeping up to date?)

JORDAN King Hussein, JY1, will be 50 years old in November and all JYs can use "50" in their callsigns instead of the usual number ... WAKE ISLAND AH9AC for a few months, try 14.179 at 13Z ... KERMADEC ISLAND ZL80Y in October ... PITCAIRN ISLAND VR6JR thru September, try 14.180 at 03Z ... AUSTRALIA VKs using VI prefix until December ... ARUBA to become independent from the Netherlands and a new DXCC country? ... CEOAA if you don't get your QSL card try again via CE3ESS registered mail ... HEARD ISLAND maybe next January or December ... CRETE SV0DV/9 until December by WOPU ... PRIBILOF ISLAND ARRL DX Advisory Committee voted 9 to 7 to recommend DXCC status but ARRL Board of Directors voted to table the recommendation ... BURMA longest time since last legal operation followed by South Yemen ... WILLIS ISLAND VK9ZB active on 14.220 at 04Z ... JAPAN 8J1XP0 at Japan's Tsukuba Expo 85 until September ... DX NET P29JS net on 14.220 at 06Z ... WALLIS ISLAND FW8AF to leave soon, active on 14.275 at 08Z ... EASTER ISLAND Father Dave, CEOAE, died on June 6 ... CHRISTMAS ISLAND T32AN is only ham on island now ... MADEIRA DJ2BW/CT3 will operate September 1 thru 15 ... ST. PIERRE September 11 thru 15 by W3ESU and K8CFU on 160 ... NEW HERBRIDES YJOASN by ZL2BOF ... KERGUELEN FT8XB on 20 ssb 04-06Z ... GALAPAGOS HC8BI in September ... NORTH COOK ZK1WL until December ... W. CAROLINES KC6JC now active ...

DEAR CQ DX: How many stations are active in China? ANSWER: There are 4 stations that show up regularly, BY1PK, BY1QH, BY4AA and BY5RA. Some other calls that have been heard this past year are BY0AA, BY8AA, BY8AC, BY1SK, 3H8C, BAOA, 3HOP, XS2PC, XS2PC, XS2WC, BTOMNM, BT1HHL, BY8AC, BY5RF and BT4RJU. CHINA claims 9 stations, 60 operators, and 500 radio club members.

FOR SALE; Swan 350 asking \$200. excellent condition, 750 watts pep, 80-10 meters transceiver contact Archie, KALJDY  
FOR SALE: Magazines- QST 1961-83, CQ 1963-83, 73 1963 -80 best offer Bob Stephens, WIMM 413-532-6020

# HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION

## Membership Application

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CALLSIGN \_\_\_\_\_ License Class: Novice Tech  
 STREET \_\_\_\_\_ General Advanced Extra  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL Membership: Yes No  
 9 digits

=====

\$9.00 Regular Membership \$9.00 Family Regular Membership  
 \$19.00 Repeater Membership \$19.00 Family Repeater Membership  
 Note the price for family memberships!!!!!!

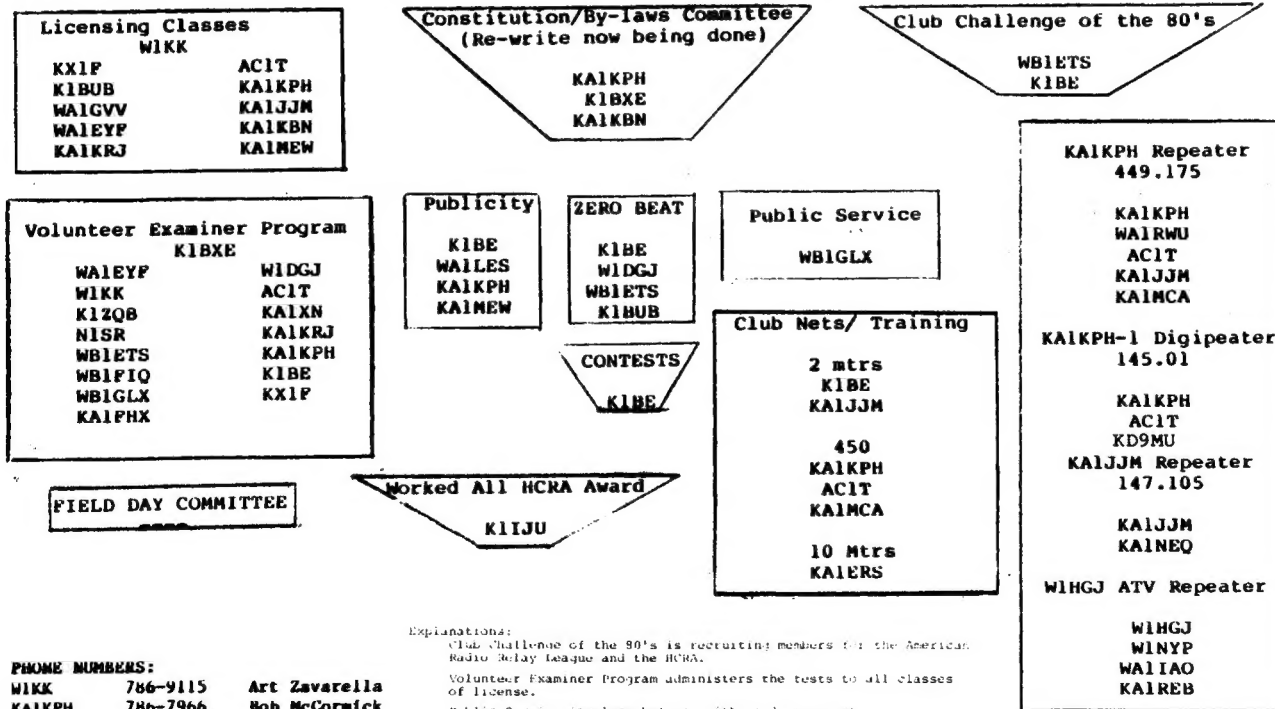
Make checks payable to HCRA, and mail to:

Greg Stoddard, N1AEH, 1500 Mapleton Ave, Suffield, CT 06078

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_ DONATION \_\_\_\_\_

Your tax-deductable donation is much appreciated! Any thoughts/questions?

WORK GROUPS WITHIN THE CLUB ORGANIZATION. IF YOU'D LIKE TO WORK ON ANY OF THESE  
 PROJECTS OR AREAS OF INTEREST, CONTACT THE FIRST PERSON ON THE LIST. WANT TO START  
 AND RUN YOUR OWN PROJECT? CONTACT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS!



### PHONE NUMBERS:

WIKK	786-9115	Art Zavarella
K1KPH	786-7966	Bob McCormick
W1B1TS	739-5228	Don Beauchemin
K1BXE	566-3010	Yorke Phillips
W1B1GLX	596-6403	Ray Burk
K1BE	569-6739	Jeff Duquette
K1IJJM	786-6658	Ray Weber
W1HGJ	525-3435	Chet Kruczek

### Explanations:

Club Challenge of the 80's is recruiting members for the American Radio Relay League and the HCRA.

Volunteer Examiner Program administers the tests to all classes of license.

Public Service involves helping with road races, etc.

Club Nets/Training is in desperate need of net control stations. Ambitious plans can't be implemented until more workers are found.

Constitution is being revised and re-written to take the HCRA into the year 2000.

Repeaters need technically talented people to put into practice some of the gadgets and ideas that we have proposed.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Next Meeting: Friday September 6 at 8pm  
Feeding Hills Congregational Church,  
Feeding Hills, Mass Topic is videos on  
the Space Shuttle/WLNY operation and the  
Special Event Station N1BHF!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Sept 20 MTARA meeting on OSCAR  
Sept 22 Flea Market, Willimantic, CT  
Sept 22 Exams in Pittsfield, MA (NOBARC)  
Sept 29 Hamfest, giant Flea Market,  
King Ridge Ski Area, NH  
Sept 29 Northern Berkshire ARC meeting  
Oct 4 HCRA meeting- Topic Power Dist.  
Oct 5 Hoss Trader's Flea Market,  
Deerfield, NH  
Oct 5 Flea Market in Torrington, CT  
Oct 19 Exams in Wilbraham, Mass (HCRA)  
Oct 27 Flea Market and Exams, Framingham  
Nov 1 HCRA CLUB AUCTION!!!! Granger  
School, Feeding Hill, MA 7pm  
Dec. 6 HCRA Meeting on DX!

WESTLINK REPORT IS CARRIED LIVE, EVERY WEEKNIGHT  
ON THE KALKPH 449.175 MACHINE at 8 pm. (Soon  
to be on 2 meters!)

QSL CARDS FOR N1BHF, Basketball Hall of Fame  
station have been mailed. Last call for SASE's!

QSL THE SPACE SHUTTLE CHALLENGER, WFORE VIA ARRL.

RADIO LICENSING CLASSES START SEPT 17, END DEC  
14, WITH EXAMS ON DECEMBER 14 IN WILBRAHAM!

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